United Nations A/57/778–S/2003/407

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
4 April 2003

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 54
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Letter dated 4 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 4 April 2003, addressed to you by Mr. Reşat Çağlar, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex were to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 4 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter of 3 April 2003 and its enclosure (A/57/777-S/2003/406, annex), I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of a letter dated 4 April 2003, addressed to the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Papadopoulos, by President Denktaş, in response to Mr. Papadopoulos' reply to his first letter (see enclosure).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter were to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Reşat **Çağlar**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

Thank you for your prompt reply of 2 April 2003 (A/57/777-S/2003/403, annex), the contents of which I have duly studied.

I am still convinced that at the root of the long-standing Cyprus issue lies the deep crisis of confidence between the two sides. This factor has obstructed all efforts aimed at reaching a comprehensive settlement. The latest face-to-face talks process was not an exception to this.

My two-track proposal of 2 April 2003 was aimed at overcoming the crisis of confidence between the two peoples of the island and contributing to the normalization of relations between them, while giving a new impetus to the efforts targeting a comprehensive settlement.

I would now like to briefly comment on some of the points that you have raised in your letter:

1. As I have confirmed in my letter of 2 April 2003, the Turkish Cypriot side continues to support the good offices mission of the Secretary-General.

2. It was the Turkish Cypriot side that initiated the latest face-to-face talks. In this context, we engaged in good faith in the negotiation of the United Nations Secretary-General's suggestions and actively put forward ideas for improvement. The Turkish Cypriot side also actively engaged in all of the work of the Technical Committees. You also expressed reservations regarding the Secretary-General's plan and put forward suggestions. In fact, at The Hague, the Greek Cypriot side insisted on strict conditions for submitting the Secretary-General's plan to referendum. Again, at The Hague, I proposed that we should discuss the amendments both sides want, and if agreed, to put the plan to referenda. I am sure you will agree that we can only tackle the core issues in the framework of such a process.

Let me confirm once again that the Turkish Cypriot side has always been for a mutually acceptable and freely negotiated settlement. In my view, the main reason for not realizing this objective is due to the failure to secure a socio-psychologically conducive environment, the achievement of which would have facilitated the evolution of a working relationship between the two sides, primarily through the building up of trust and confidence. It is this particular need that my proposals are set to address in practical terms.

I would, therefore, like to state that my proposals are still on the table. Because of the critical nature of the need to address the issue of trust and confidence in the building up of a partnership in the context of a comprehensive settlement, I will continue to pursue this subject and hope that you will look at my proposals with a new perspective.

I am also sending a copy of this letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Rauf R. **Denktaş**
President